

**JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF COOK COUNTY**



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**DAVID ORR  
COUNTY CLERK**

**JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF COOK COUNTY**

**NOVEMBER 8, 2001  
(SPECIAL MEETING)**



**JOHN H. STROGER, JR., PRESIDENT**

**JERRY BUTLER  
ALLAN C. CARR  
EARLEAN COLLINS  
JOHN P. DALEY  
GREGG GOSLIN  
CARL R. HANSEN  
TED LECHOWICZ  
ROBERTO MALDONADO**

**WILLIAM R. MORAN  
JOSEPH MARIO MORENO  
MIKE QUIGLEY  
HERBERT T. SCHUMANN, JR.  
PETER N. SILVESTRI  
DEBORAH SIMS  
BOBBIE L. STEELE  
CALVIN R. SUTKER**

**DAVID ORR  
COUNTY CLERK**

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**JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**OF THE**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**OF COOK COUNTY**

**Meeting of Thursday, November 8, 2001**

**10:30 A.M.**

**Central Standard Time**

**COOK COUNTY BOARD ROOM, COUNTY BUILDING**

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Board met pursuant to the following call:

November 5, 2001

The Honorable David Orr  
Cook County Clerk  
69 West Washington Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Mr. Orr:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County for Thursday, November 8, 2001, at the hour of 10:30 A.M., in the County Board Room, Room 569, County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois, at which meeting I will present the Message of the President to the Board of Commissioners submitting the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2002.

Yours very truly,

JOHN H. STROGER, JR., President  
Cook County Board of Commissioners

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**COPY OF LETTER SENT TO ALL COMMISSIONERS**

November 5, 2001

Honorable President and  
Members of the Cook County  
Board of Commissioners

Ladies and Gentlemen:

John H. Stroger, Jr., President of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, has directed me to call a Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County on Thursday, November 8, 2001, at the hour of 10:30 A.M., in the County Board Room, Room 569, County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois, at which meeting the Message of the President to the Board of Cook County Commissioners submitting the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2002 will be presented.

Very truly yours,

DAVID ORR, County Clerk

\* \* \* \* \*

This is to certify that a copy of the above notice was handed delivered and personally addressed to each member of the Board of Cook County Commissioners at their home address and was deposited in the United States Mail on November 5, 2001.

DAVID ORR, County Clerk

\* \* \* \* \*

The following Legal Notice appeared in the Chicago Sun-Times Newspaper on Wednesday, November 7, 2001.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

John H. Stroger, Jr., President of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, has directed me to call a Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County on Thursday, November 8, 2001, at the hour of 10:30 A.M. in the County Board Room, Room 569, County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois, at which meeting the Message of the President to the Board of Cook County Commissioners submitting the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2002 will be presented.

Very truly yours,

DAVID ORR, Cook County and Clerk  
of the Board of the Commissioners of Cook County, Illinois

November 7, 2001

**OFFICIAL RECORD**

President Stroger in the Chair.

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 10:30 A.M., being the hour appointed for the meeting, the President called the Board to order.

**QUORUM**

County Clerk David Orr called the roll of members and there was found to be a quorum present.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Carr, Collins, Daley, Hansen, Lechowicz, Maldonado, Moran, Moreno, Quigley, Silvestri, Sims, Steele, Sutker, Stroger-14.

Absent: Butler, Goslin, Schumann-3.

**BUDGET MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT**

**to the**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002**

November 8, 2001

To the Honorable Members of the  
Board of Commissioners of Cook County

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We meet today at a crossroad where uncertainty and opportunity intersect ... for our nation and for Cook County.

In an uncertain economy and an uncertain world, we turn to our public institutions for protection. And the County plays a central role in providing vital public safety and health services.

I transmit to you this morning my recommended Executive Budget for the year 2002. I present to you a budget that is balanced, that does not raise new taxes or increase existing taxes ... and that maintains County services without reducing the current workforce.

In preparing this budget, I directed my finance team to accomplish the following goals:

- To fund essential services and functions without increasing cost to the taxpayers;
- To keep the commitments we have made to our workforce;
- To recommend appropriate management controls for prudent administration of the budget; and
- To present a balanced budget.

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With financial market uncertainty already taking hold before the events of September, this budget is the most difficult and challenging of the previous six that I have presented to this honorable body.

In developing this year's budget, I took several decisive and prudent actions to protect the financial gains that we have worked so hard to achieve over the past several years. I asked that all Elected Officials and Department Heads hold their 2002 budget requests to the 2001 appropriation. I also directed the Budget Department to publish departmental budget requests. Finally, I implemented a Countywide-hiring freeze. While we have made a valiant attempt to control costs, this effort will require greater participation from all elected officials and department heads in the future.

The \$2.7 billion dollar balanced budget, an increase of less than 1% over last year, fully funds our commitments and obligations. This is a conservative spending proposal. I have taken a series of steps to control and reduce spending.

- \* I am ordering that the hiring freeze on non-essential positions imposed last summer be extended through at least the first quarter of the new year. To date the freeze has resulted in savings of \$15 million.

- \* We will pursue an Early Retirement Initiative for nearly 3,400 eligible county employees. A similar effort four years ago saved Cook County \$10 million by eliminating non-essential positions.

- \* This budget reflects the savings produced by those departments and elected officials who met my request to come in with a budget at 2001 appropriation levels.

- \* This budget cuts funding for non-essential travel, seminars and supplies, saving \$6 million.

- \* This budget eliminates 100 full-time equivalent vacant positions coming from departments under my direction, from the Office of the Treasurer and from the Office of the Chief Judge. Elimination of these positions saves \$5.5 million from this budget.

- \* We will continue to benefit from the cumulative effect of the 1,000 positions eliminated from departments under my control since 1995. These reductions were primarily at Cook County Hospital and reflect an annual saving of \$59 million ... and this is a significant step in achieving the projected \$80 million to be saved as a result of a new downsized Cook County Hospital.

During this past year, I formed the County Operations Review Team to identify ways to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness in providing County services. The findings of the CORT team were forwarded to this board in July.

This budget incorporates several of the opportunities identified by the CORT team with savings that total \$10 million. For example:

- The consolidation of pharmacy contracts within the Bureau of Health Services will save \$8 million in this budget...and more in subsequent years.
- The County Clerk will prepare the layout of the election ballots and print sample and absentee ballots in-house, saving taxpayers \$800,000.
- Utility and telephone audits have already begun, and we expect to realize \$1 million from these initiatives.

The disciplined spending reflected in this budget is supported by our efforts to identify alternative sources of revenue to fund necessary growth.



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Since I was first elected President we have steadily reduced Cook County's reliance on real estate taxes from 32.2 percent of the budget in 1995 to 26.3 percent of the budget for 2002. Historically, Cook County received 10 cents of each dollar paid for property tax. With the declining reliance on property taxes, that amount has now been reduced to 8.9 cents of each dollar.

During this same time patient fees derived from our health care system have grown from \$321 million in 1995 to \$451 million in 2002 ... as we have sought federal and state support and have enhanced collections from individuals and third parties. In this budget year health revenues will grow by \$38 million.

We have developed a cooperative relationship with the Governor and the General Assembly resulting in increased funding for a growing number of County programs. \$6 Million has been appropriated to reimburse Cook County for some of the costs of operating the juvenile detention center. Over the next two years the State will fund legal representation for criminal appeals relieving Cook County from funding these services.

With the City of Chicago and other agencies, we will consolidate procurement of employee health benefits to take advantage of discounts available in the market place. This program will result in significant savings without compromising the level of coverage provided to our employees. We have invested county funds prudently and will use \$14 million of the interest earned on investment of working cash funds towards this budget.

The property tax levy remains level at \$720.5 million as it has been for the last three years.

While we have honored our pledge to reduce costs, these savings will not come at the expense of vital services or needed infrastructure maintenance. Our County Highway Department program for next year will bring \$12 million worth of resurfacing projects to the City of Chicago. We will initiate \$14 million worth of road and bridge improvements and resurfacing in the north suburbs ... and \$22 million in projects for south and southwest Cook County.

The next year will see the fulfillment of another commitment I made to the citizens of Cook County - the opening of a new Cook County Hospital. I am happy to report that the construction of the new hospital is proceeding on time and on budget. We will begin moving patients into the new hospital in the late summer.

The 2002 budget will provide \$15 million more than last year for public safety, a total of \$967 million. Public Safety takes 51 percent of the General Fund budget.

The Health Fund budget of \$737 million supports an additional \$15 million more than last year and represents 39% of the General Fund budget.

The Corporate Fund budget of \$180 million decreases by \$4 million as compared to last year and represents 10% of the General Fund budget.

As each year approaches, the challenge of preparing a sound-spending plan will become more demanding. I have committed to identifying and implementing cost saving opportunities throughout the operating departments under my direction. I encourage the elected officials to likewise implement the cost saving opportunities which have been identified through the CORT report.

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Providing cost-effective governmental services relies on strategic partnerships with our employees and their bargaining representatives. As I call on the elected officials to assist in planning for the future financial health of this county, I also call upon the representatives of our county's unionized workforce to assist us in identifying opportunities to reduce the escalating costs of serving the public. County officials, employees, and bargaining representatives are all partners in this enterprise. We will all benefit from making county government a cost-effective model for the future.

Again, I present to you a budget for fiscal year 2002 which is balanced, which does not raise new taxes or increase existing taxes, and which maintains vital services without reducing the current workforce. The concerns I expressed to you last year ring true today and will be true as we move forward. We must find ways to reduce the cost of providing services and we must be vigilant in managing the appropriations, which will be made on this budget recommendation.

Thank you.

JOHN H. STROGER, JR., President

\* \* \* \* \*

The Message of the President to the Board of Cook County Commissioners was given by President Stroger.

\* \* \* \* \*

President Stroger then submitted the Executive Budget to the Board of Commissioners for the Fiscal Year 2002, for referral to the Committee on Finance.

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Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Hansen, moved that the President's Executive Budget be referred to the Committee on Finance. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Moreno, moved that the Special Meeting do now adjourn.

The motion prevailed and the Special Meeting stood adjourned.

The next regular County Board Meeting is scheduled by law, for Tuesday, November 20, 2001.

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County Clerk